



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

or who would spend his time in writing a history of inferior merit, when he could make himself the first physician in the state?

The Italians, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, devoted themselves to the physical sciences, particularly to anatomy and the collateral branches of medicine, in preference to those branches of literature, which had been explored thoroughly by their predecessors.—Gallileo, Torricelli, Boscovich, Spallanzani, Galvani, Volta, are great names in the philosophical world, and reflect a lustre on their age and country. Boscovich was not only an original theorist and philosopher, but he was also a poet of eminence; Spallanzani unfolded a great many of the mysteries of nature; and Galvani detected, in a new form, one of her most powerful and universal agents.

In the mean time literature was by no means neglected. Metastasio is ranked among the first of poets, and Alfieri, Maffei, and some others, are allowed high claims. Strada's history is remarked for its elegance, correctness, and pure style. Muratori and Tiraboschi have written histories, which, in the judgment of a late learned and judicious author, are among the very first of their kind. Muratori was a historian, general scholar, and a poet. His works were published in forty-six volumes folio. Tiraboschi's history of Italian literature from the days of Augustus to the close of the eighteenth century, in thirteen volumes quarto, is considered a wonderful production. It embraces the whole compass of Italian literature, both ancient and modern. "The immortal work of Tiraboschi," says Mr. Roscoe, "is the noblest specimen of that species of composition, which any age or country has produced."

FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

THE reader, who has been accustomed to laugh at the *verses* of Sternhold and Hopkyns, will be amused, perhaps, in perusing the following account of them, extracted from Wood.

"Thomas Sternhold was, in all likelihood, born in Hampshire, but whether educated in Wykeham's school, near

Winchester, is as yet doubtful. Sure it is, that he, having spent some time in this University, [Oxford] left it without the honour of a degree, and retiring to the court of king Henry VIII, was made groom of the robes to him, and when that king died, he left him in his will 100 marks. Afterwards he continued in that office under king Edward VI, at which time he was in some esteem in the royal court for his grave vein in poetry and other trivial learning. But being a most zealous reformer, and a very strict liver, he became so scandalized at the amorous and obscene songs used in the court, that he, forsooth, turned into English metre, fifty-one of David's psalms, and caused musical notes to be set to them, thinking, thereby, that the courtiers would sing them instead of their sonnets; but [they] did not, only some few excepted. However, the poetry and musick being admirable, and the best that was made and composed in those times, they were thought fit afterwards to be sung in all parochial churches, as they do continue: *—What other poetry or what prose this our poet, Sternhold, hath composed, and left behind, I know not, nor any thing else of him, only that he died in London or Westminster, in 1549.

“Contemporary with Sternhold was Joh. Hopkyns, who is styled to be *Britanicarum poetarum sui temporis non infimus*, as, indeed, by the generality living in the reign of Edward VI, he was so, if not more, esteemed. He turned into metre fifty-eight of David's psalms, which are, to this day, sung in churches.—Athen. Oxon. Vol. I. p. 62

FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

Ancient Persian Bricks.

CAPTAIN HENRY AUSTEN, impelled by a spirit of very enlightened and intrepid enterprise, has undertaken two expeditions to Persia, which he has commanded himself, for the purpose of exploring some new sources of commerce. From the latter of these he has lately returned, and

* The Athen. Oxon. was printed in 1691.